

The Cochin Ezhuthachan Bill.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Mr. President, Sir, I rise to move that the Cochin Ezhuthachan Bill be referred to a fresh Select Committee. - As most of the Hon'ble non-official Members are new to the Bill which I am permitted to refer to a Select Committee, Sir, I will just explain in brief what the Bill is.

The Bill, Sir, is a very small one, which has two main objects. One is to restrict and to regulate a custom which has unfortunately crept into the society. The other is to give a right to the wife, the daughter and the mother of the family in the family property.

The Community in main follows the Mithakshara Hindu Law with one or two exceptions countenanced by custom obtaining in the Community. The most important provision is one to regulate the un-restricted divorce which is not looked upon with any amount of toleration by the rising generation in the community. The Bill aims at, if not abolishing that system altogether, in certain respects, regulating the unrestricted divorce that is unhappily prevalent in the community. Chapter 2 relates to that portion of the Bill. Chapter 3 is the chapter on inheritance which mainly deals with the right of the female section of the community in ancestral property. Chapter 4 deals with the share that has to be given to the wife, the daughter and the mother from the family property. Chapter 5 contains certain supplementary provisions. This, in short, is the main scope of the Bill and I move that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of those Hon'ble Members of the House whose names I have placed before the Hon'ble the President.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—I second it.

Mr. President.—The motion before the House is that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the following Members.—Messrs. (1) P. Govinda Menon, (2) T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar, (3) T. K. Nayar, (4) Dr. A. R. Menon, (5) Miss P. Meenakshikutty Amma, (6) the Law Member and (7) the mover of the Bill. The Law Member will be the Chairman. The Committee is to report in 4 months' time.

Motion put and carried.

The Cochin Debt Conciliation Bill.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Sir, I move for leave to introduce the Cochin Debt Conciliation Bill.